

as the seized property would have been subject to such claims.

(b) *Disposition of low-value property.*

(1) If the expense of keeping any vessel, vehicle, aircraft, merchandise or baggage is disproportionate to the value thereof, and such value is less than \$1,000, destruction or other disposition of such property may be ordered by the appropriate Customs officer. Storage expenses are presumed to be disproportionate to the value of the property where the expense has reached or is anticipated to reach 50 percent of the value of the property. The right of a claimant to seized property which has been destroyed or otherwise disposed of shall not be extinguished.

(2) Publication of a notice of the seizure, regardless of the disposition of the property, will be required pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1607. Claimants to seized property will be permitted to file a petition for remission of the forfeiture pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1618, and part 171 of this chapter. A claimant receiving full or partial relief from the forfeiture shall be reimbursed the difference between the value of the merchandise at the time of the seizure, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1606 and § 162.43 of this part, and any remitted forfeiture amount that the claimant is required to pay.

(3) A claimant to destroyed or otherwise disposed of seized property requesting relief in the form of payment may file a claim and cost bond and seek judicial hearing on the forfeiture pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1608.

(4) Successful claimants shall be compensated from Customs Forfeiture Fund pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1613b.

[T.D. 72-211, 37 FR 16488, Aug. 15, 1972, as amended by T.D. 85-195, 50 FR 50290, Dec. 10, 1985; T.D. 92-69, 57 FR 30640, July 10, 1992]

§ 162.49 Forfeiture by court decree.

(a) *Report to the U.S. attorney or the Department of Justice if the penalty was assessed under section 592, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1592).* When it is necessary to institute legal proceedings in order to forfeit seized property, or to forfeit the value of property subject to forfeiture, the port director or the special agent in charge of the area involved shall furnish a report to the U.S. attorney or the Department of Justice if the penalty was assessed

under section 592, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1592), in accordance with the provisions of section 603, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1603).

(b) *Bonding of seized property.* When a claimant desires to file a bond for the release of seized property which is the subject of a court proceeding, he shall be referred to the U.S. attorney. The Government is entitled to recover the penal sum of the bond if forfeiture is then decreed.

[T.D. 72-211, 37 FR 16488, Aug. 15, 1972, as amended by T.D. 85-90, 50 FR 21431, May 24, 1985]

§ 162.50 Forfeiture by court decree: Disposition.

(a) *Sale.* Forfeited property decreed by the court for sale or disposition by the port director shall be disposed of in the same manner as property summarily forfeited. (See § 162.46.)

(b) *Transfer to other districts for sale.* If the laws of the State in which property is seized and forfeited prohibit the sale of such property, or if the Commissioner of Customs is of the opinion that the sale of forfeited property may be made more advantageously in another Customs district, application may be made to the court to permit disposition in accordance with the provisions of section 611, Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1611). If the court permits such disposition, the property shall be moved to and sold in such other district as the Commissioner may direct provided it has been cleared for sale.

(c) *Destruction—(1) Proceeds of sale not sufficient.* Property forfeited under a decree of any court may be destroyed if it is provided in the decree of forfeiture that the property shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Treasury or the Commissioner of Customs for disposition in accordance with section 611, Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1611).

(2) *For protection of the revenue.* Any vessel or vehicle forfeited under a decree of any court for violation of any law respecting the Customs revenue may be destroyed in lieu of sale when such destruction is authorized by the Commissioner of Customs to protect the revenue if it is provided in the decree of forfeiture that the property shall be delivered to the Secretary of